periods of both years was reversed, being warm in 1976 and cool in 1977, the butterflies emerging after 21-25 days and 17-21 days respectively (Dr. C. J. Luckens *in litt.*). It would appear therefore that air temperature can significantly influence the duration of the pupal stage of *T. quercus,* and may account for the wide differences of opinion given by the authors cited above.

References: (1) Acworth, B., 1947. *Butterfly Miracles and Mysteries,* London. (2) Frohawk, F. W., 1934. *The Complete Book of British Butterflies,* London. (3) Rowland-Brown, H., 1912. *Butterflies and Moths at Home and Abroad,* London. (4) Sanders, E., 1939. *A Butterfly Book for the Pocket,* London. — J. Mitchell, 22 Muirpark Way, Drymen, Glasgow, G63 0DX.

Lepidoptera in Co. Mayo. — On 10th June, 1977, while collecting lepidoptera with Mr. B. K. West on some Burren-type terrain about two miles south of Partry, Co. Mayo, among the more interesting species noted were: *Zygaena purpuralis* Brünnich (several), *Photedes captiuncula* Tr., *Platyptilia tesseradactyla* L., *Aethes piercei* Obraztsov, *Leucoptera lotella* Stainton and *Glyphipterix schoenicolella* Boyd. Beating juniper produced larvae of *Thera cognata* Thunb., from which we bred numerous moths. — J. M. Chalmers-Hunt.

Foodplant of the Juniper Pug (Eupithecia pusillata D. & S. = sobrinata Hbn.). — Both Allan (*Larval Foodplants*) and South (*Moths of the British Isles*) give juniper as the only foodplant of the pug of that name, although the latter remarks that the moth is sometimes noted in localities where juniper appears to be absent. It is perhaps worth recording that while staying at North Kessock on the Moray Firth this August, *E. pusillata* was one of the commonest visitors to m.v. although I could find no juniper in the area. — R. G. Chatelain, 65 East Drive, Orpington, Kent.

Ova of the Common Swift Moth: Hepialus lupulinus Linnaeus. — I notice with some surprise, in Vol. 1 of "The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland", that the ova of *Hepialus lupulinus* are "not known". This must surely be because no one has bothered to record so common a species.

The ova, which are slightly ovoid in shape, are broadcast by the female and, when laid, are a clear, shining white. Within an hour they have turned grey and after 4-6 hours are pure black. They remain like this for 8-10 days and then become slightly paler again before the larva hatches. They therefore follow a similar pattern to that of the other *Hepialus* species.

Two females which I took laid c. 80 ova within half an hour, but anyone who wishes to obtain ova of the species has only to examine the bottom of his m.v. trap after taking the appropriate females. — Geoffrey N. Burton, "Mar-y-Mar", Minster Drive, Minster-in-Sheppey, Kent, ME12 2NG.